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News Release ~ Communiqué

Ministers Dupuy and Manley receive CRTC report on convergence

OTTAWA, May 19, 1995 - Canadian Heritage Minister Michel Dupuy and Industry Minister John Manley today thanked the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) for its report on the broadcasting and telecommunications policy issues emerging from the development of the information highway.

Last fall, the Ministers asked the CRTC to conduct public hearings on how best to implement the Government's policy decisions regarding the nature of competition between cable companies and telecommunications and other information providers and the requirement that Canadian content have a prominent place on the Information Highway.

"A strong, clear Canadian presence must be among the choices offered to Canadians on the Information Highway," Mr. Dupuy said. "The CRTC's report gives us valuable ideas as to how we can protect and encourage Canada's sovereignty and cultural identity."

The Ministers said the Government's goal is to announce new policies for broadcasting and telecommunications by the end of the year.

"The CRTC's report, which we have referred to the Information Highway Advisory Council for comments, will help us make critical decisions over the next few months," Mr. Manley said. "Increased competition will benefit consumers, and business will be able to make informed investment decisions."

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